

## REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 and 22-26 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 24, and 25 being independent.

Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 are considered to be allowable.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 13, 24, and 25 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action of April 19, 2004, Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 13-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,000,024 (“Maddox”) in various combinations with U.S. Patent No. 5,812,975 (“Komori ‘975”), U.S. Patent No. 5,787,396 (“Komori ‘396”), U.S. Patent No. 6,374,210 B1 (“Chu”), the paper “Connected Sentence Recognition Using Diphone-Like Templates” (“Rosenberg”), U.S. Patent No. 5,311,429 (“Tominaga”), U.S. Patent No. 5,926,784 (“Richardson”), U.S. Patent No. 5,845,047 (“Fukada”), and U.S. Patent No. 5,913,193 (“Huang”). These rejections were traversed, and reasons for such traversal were given, in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on July 19, 2004.

As indicated in the Advisory Action of August 18, 2004, the Examiner was of the view that the term “phonetic label,” presented in the claims of the July 19, 2004 Amendment, raised new issues requiring further consideration and search, as well as an issue of new matter.

Without conceding the propriety of that position, Applicants have herein amended the term “phonetic label” in the claims to read “information indicating a phonetic environment.”

Page 9, line 7 of the specification is an example of where support for a “phonetic environment” can be found in the original disclosure. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the remarks in the July 19, 2004 Amendment, taking into consideration this amendment to the claims.


Applicants submit that the independent claims, as further amended herein, even more clearly define features of the invention, and patentably distinguish the invention over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be allowable, for the same reasons that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner’s earliest convenience are requested.

Applicants’ undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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